

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The written description portion of the specification, claims 1-4 and 6-24, and the abstract of the disclosure have been amended. Claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-4 and 6-24 are now pending in the application. Claim 1 is independent. The objections and rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The specification has been editorially amended for conformance with 37 CFR § 1.77(c), for consistency, and to correct any informalities. The abstract has been editorially amended for conformance with 37 CFR § 1.72(b). The claims have been amended to overcome each ground of objection and still further in general to more fully comply with U.S. practice.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate a feature of the invention previously recited in now-canceled claim 5. Instant claim 1 defines a cylinder having a sleeve that contains a *pultroded* carbon fiber reinforced plastic.

Entry of each of the amendments is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) - Busshoff

Claims 1-7 and 11-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0157285 of Busshoff et al. (hereinafter "Busshoff").

The rejection under § 102(b) based on Busshoff is respectfully deemed to be obviated. The disclosure of Busshoff does not anticipate Applicants' presently claimed invention.

As indicated above in the introductory remarks, instant claim 1 defines an embodiment of the invention in which the cylinder has a sleeve that contains a pultruded carbon fiber reinforced plastic. In addition, another structural feature of the cylinder defined by claim 1 is that "a majority of the carbon fibers in the plastic [are] aligned essentially parallel to the principal symmetry axis of the cylinder."

Busshoff's sleeve is structurally different from Applicants' presently claimed cylinder. Busshoff does disclose that "base sleeve 12 may be manufactured by a pultrusion process" (paragraph [0044]). Then, however, in referring to his Figure 3 (see disclosure of "Rotate Support") and describing the "process steps used to produce print sleeve 10," Busshoff discloses that "one or more layers of the fibrous material are applied and wound on the rotating support" (paragraph [0047]).

That, however, is not Applicants' presently claimed invention, in which not only does the cylinder contain a pultruded

carbon fiber reinforced plastic, but one in which "a majority of the carbon fibers in the plastic [are] aligned essentially parallel to the principal symmetry axis of the cylinder."

Since Busshoff does not meet each feature of the claimed invention, Busshoff does not anticipate the invention defined by Applicants' instant claim 1. Now pending claims 2-4, 6, 7, and 11-17 are allowable because they depend from claim 1, and for other reasons.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Since Busshoff is the primary reference in each of the rejections under § 103(a) -- claims 8-10 as being unpatentable over Busshoff in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,799,510 to Sandstrom; claims 18-20 and 23-24 as being unpatentable over Busshoff in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,074,735 to Ogita; and claims 21 and 22 as being unpatentable over Busshoff and Ogita in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,213,275 to Giesy -- each of these rejections is also respectfully deemed to be obviated. The combined disclosures of the cited references would not have rendered obvious Applicants' presently claimed invention because the disclosures of the additional references do not rectify any of the above-described deficiencies of Busshoff.

Furthermore, there is simply no teaching in any of the references that would have led one to select the references and

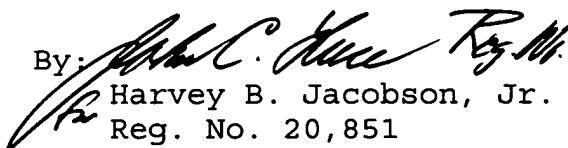
combine them in a way that would produce the invention defined by any of Applicants' presently pending claims.

Therefore, the various combinations of references would not have rendered obvious the various embodiments of the invention defined by any of Applicants' presently pending claims.

In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that an interview might expedite prosecution, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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